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Redevelopment Board Minutes 03/18/2013

Arlington Redevelopment Board
 March 18, 2013

2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall annex – 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: B. Fitzsimmons, T. Fields, A. West, Mike Cayer

ABSENT: C. Scypinski

STAFF: Carol Kowalski. Also present were Judi Barrett, Community Opportunities Group, Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer, Jeff Maxtutis, Ed Starr and

AGENDA ITEM:
Vote:
AGENDA ITEM: Master Plan consultant introduction.
AGENDA ITEM: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) report on CVS mitigation, 30-50 Mill Street traffic mitigation.
<p>TAC reported on the new beacon on the bikepath crossing at Mill Street. The objective was to make motorists more aware that they were approaching a crossing. It flashes red to bike users, yellow to motorists. When it's not flashing drivers will know they do not have to slow. Not flashing = no one crossing. Early problem was yellow stayed on too long, now yellow flashes for 18 seconds, it was previously 30 seconds. The detection was fine-tuned. Pavement markings and signage are forthcoming, the Town Engineer said. There is a one-year bond to monitor the beacon. Ms. Kowalski commented that the yellow beacon was too bright for motorists to see people crossing. She also expressed concern that cars now sometimes get backed up into the Summer Street intersection, and that some cyclists ride through the crossing without stopping or slowing, reinforcing the behavior in motorists of stopping at the crossing even when no one is evident in the crossing, thereby slowing traffic further. Education of all users of the bikepath was urged. Ms. Grady commented that enforcement was more important than education. She offered the Wood Partners' kiosk for some education effort, such as signage. She also offered a Facebook page. Mr. Maxtutis continued, explaining the pedestrian warning light for the alley behind Shattucks at Mill Street. It is visual-only, and can be retrofit so sidewalk users hear an audible warning but not residents.</p> <p>The proposed improvements to the intersection of Jason Street, Mass Ave, and Mill Street were also presented to the Board. \$50,000 in CVS mitigation funds are available for this #3 highest crash site in Arlington. Exclusive pedestrian phase 22 seconds must be 29 by code. Concurrent pedestrian phase would cross parallel with vehicular traffic. Mr. Fitzsimmons asked recommendation on right on red. Mr. Maxtutis replied they'd think about keeping it. Mr. Fitzsimmons asked them to consider whether a three-second head start for pedestrians was enough and make it no right on red. The Board endorsed the approach and thanked the TAC. The Board asked Ms. Kowalski to check the formal act that commits the funds before the 2015 deadline.</p>
AGENDA ITEM: Town Meeting Warrant articles. Mr. Fitzsimmons explained that the sponsor of the accessory apartment article wished to ask the Board to vote no action, given the unresolved issues that arose at the public hearing. Mr. Cayer moved no action on article 6. Mr. Fields seconded and all voted in favor. Mr. Fields then moved to adopt the vote on article 7 on medical marijuana as amended with formatting changes. Mr. West seconded, and all voted in favor. Mr. Fields then moved to adopt the vote on article 8 regarding a moratorium of medical marijuana. Mr. Cayer seconded and all voted in favor.
AGENDA ITEM: Meeting minutes. Postponed to April 8 meeting
Adjourn. Mr. Fields moved to adjourn at 9:54pm. Mr. West seconded, and all voted in favor.
The Board approved these minutes with corrections on April 8, 2013.